

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of April 4, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 12. Claim 13 - 23 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Accordingly, claims 1-23 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2; rejected claims 1-2, 4-5 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,486); rejected claims 3, 6-7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sage et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the current amendments in claim 12, the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2 is moot.

The rejections of claims 1-2, 4-5 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sage et al. and claims 3, 6-7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sage et al. are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...forming polymer networks in the ferroelectric liquid crystal layer by *polymerizing the additives* [emphasis added]." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and claims 2-12, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that the polymerization in Sage et al. occurs between the liquid crystal monomers and the chain transfer reagent, which merely controls the molecular weight of the polymer. See col. 7, lines 1-57. In contrast, in the present claims, the

polymerization occurs between the additives in a ferroelectric liquid crystal.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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